

## Philippine Historical Facts Page

- Philippine Duchesne was born on August 29, 1769 in Grenoble, France into a wealthy family with political connections.
- In 1780 she went to study at the convent of Sainte-Marie-d'en-Haut.
- Despite her father's opposition, she entered the Visitation Order in Grenoble in 1788.
- When the Visitation community was dispersed by the French Revolution in 1792, she performed charitable works for nine years.
- She tried to reestablish the Visitation order in their convent of Sainte-Marie-d'en-Haut.
- In 1804, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat invited Philippine to join the new religious order, the Religious of the Sacred Heart.
- For 14 years Mother Duchesne served in this thriving religious community but she maintained her strong desire to be a missionary to the Native Americans in the new world.
- In 1815, she founded the first Sacred Heart convent in Paris.
- Mother Duchesne set sail from Bordeaux, France on the *Rebecca* on March 21, 1818 with four other Religious of the Sacred Heart. The voyage across the Atlantic took 70 days.
- They landed near New Orleans on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, May 29, 1818.
- After a six-week stay with the Ursulines in New Orleans, they traveled up the Mississippi River on the steamship *Franklin*. The 40 day trip ended in St. Louis on August 21, 1818.
- Mother Duchesne arrived in St. Charles on September 7, 1818.
- She opened the first free school west of the Mississippi one week later on September 14, 1818.
- On October 3, 1818, Emilie and Therese Pratte and their cousin, Pelagie Chouteau arrived from St. Louis to board at the convent school.
- In 1819, Mother Duchesne moved to Florissant, Missouri, where she founded an orphanage and a novitiate.
- Mother Duchesne founded two convent schools in Louisiana: Grand Coteau in 1821 and St. Michael's in 1825.
- She opened an orphanage and an academy in 1827 in St. Louis, Missouri.
- The Religious of the Sacred Heart reopened the house at St. Charles in 1828.
- At the invitation of the Jesuit missionary Father Pierre-Jean de Smet in 1841, Mother Duchesne served the Indian mission among the Potawatomi at Sugar Creek. Due to her ill health, she only served for one year.
- She spent the last decade of her life at St. Charles.
- Mother Philippine Duchesne died November 18, 1852, in St. Charles, Missouri.
- Philippine was venerated on March 17, 1935 by Pope Pius XI (decree of heroic virtues).
- She was beatified by Pope Pius XII on May 12, 1940.
- Pope John Paul II canonized St. Rose Philippine Duchesne on July 3, 1988.
- Her feast day is November 18.